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THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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DIRECTOR: PROFESSOR G. J. V. NOSSAL, C.B.E., F.A.A.

25th July, 1973

Professor J. Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University Medical Center,
STANFORD, California 94305, U.S.A.

Dear Josh,

I was delighted to renew contact with you after such a long interruption in conversation between us, and am only sorry that there was not time for more personal contact - in fact I did not even find out whether your wife finally made it to Geneva or not. Let us resolve to repair this defect next time round!

The main purpose of this note is to tell you how firmly I support your position in favour of a greater involvement of the younger generation of active workers in problems of host-parasite molecular biology. The idea of a Cold Spring Harbour Symposium is a particularly good one, but would need much lobbying and thought about detailed composition of the panel of speakers.

I also feel strongly that we should not remain idle about the implied challenge in Candau's analysis of the fields of research in which WHO did not yet have a significant position. Being a bit of an opportunist, I cannot help but make reference to the really great job that Howard Goodman has done in getting the Immunology Unit off the ground and well oriented with extraordinarily limited staff and financial resources. The thought appeals to me that his position could be widened, and that he could be considered as a potential leader of a Unit of Immunology, Cell Biology and Genetics. On past experience, he might really only have to make three or four more appointments to get something quite viable moving in this area. I have the feeling that if we do not push for something of this general kind at the next meeting, Mahler may block the development of new research initiatives. The rumour is that he is somewhat of a hard-liner on research although in direct conversation, he gives no sign of this. On the other hand, Lambo, one of the few people in the organization who came up through a University framework rather than from Public Health, is very sympathetic to research, and if he is appointed Deputy Director-General, we would have a strong ally in the sorts of endeavours that I have just outlined.

Professor J. Lederberg

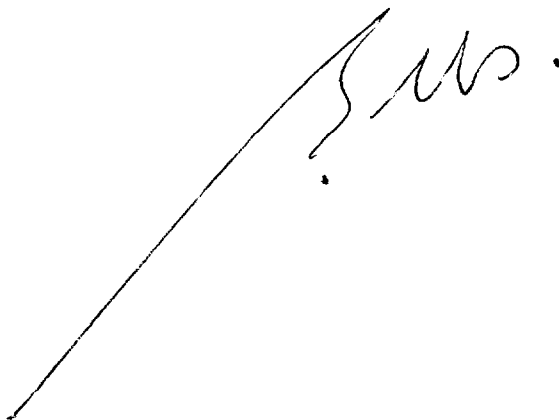
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If you feel there is any merit at all in an involvement in Cell and Molecular Biology and Genetics, perhaps we could try to prepare a position paper together which could be ventilated at the 1974 Meeting.

One final and trivial point, Gene Farber kindly sent me an Annual Report concerning Carl Djerassi's latest venture, Zoecon. He suggested I might care to invest a few thousand dollars as a speculation. However, when I looked in the paper I failed to see the Corporation by that name listed in either the New York Stock Exchange, the American Exchange or the "Over the Counter" listings of the New York Times. Maybe, when you have a second, you might let me know what you yourself think of the venture, and whether you would recommend an investment and, if you feel it has merit, where the stock is listed.

Warm good wishes.

Yours, as ever

A handwritten signature, likely of J. Lederberg, written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, starting with a large 'J' and ending with a period. It is positioned below the typed name 'Yours, as ever'.